

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the consideration given the present application.

Claim 1 is now present in this application. Claim 1 is independent, and has been amended. Claims 2-8 are canceled without prejudice to present in a continuing patent application. No new matter is involved.

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 4, 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's "acknowledged prior art of figure 1" in view of JP 60-136059. This rejection is respectfully traversed as moot because claims 4, 5 and 7 have been canceled.

Claims 4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,995,027 to Aoyagi et al.. This rejection is respectfully traversed as moot because claims 4 and 6 have been canceled.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over the art applied in the preceding rejection of claims 4 and 6 and further in view of JP 60-136059. This rejection is respectfully traversed as moot because claim 5 has been canceled.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable Aoyagi et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,828,641 to Abe et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed as moot because claim 7 has been canceled.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over the art applied in the preceding rejection of claim 1 and further in view of Abe et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed as moot because claim 8 has been canceled.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Aoyagi et al. in view of JP 60-136059. This rejection is respectfully traversed as moot because claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 3, which the Office Action indicates contains allowable subject matter, thereby making claim 1, as amended, allowable.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 3. Applicant has added the subject matter to claim 1, from which it previously depended, thereby re-writing claim 3 in independent form, as amended claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1, as amended to include the subject matter of claim 3, is allowable.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the

outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Robert J. Webster, Registration No. 46,472, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant respectfully petitions for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$120.00 is attached hereto.

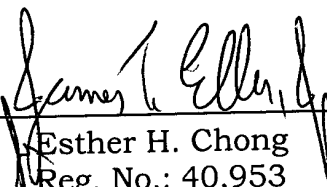
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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